

King County Healthcare Coalition

Monthly Update

October 31, 2006
Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update

The Healthcare Coalition planning effort is focused on (1) building the infrastructure to support greater coordination across the community's diverse health system, (2) developing coordinated surge capacity strategies and plans, and (3) supporting pandemic preparedness planning throughout the healthcare community.

The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 35 health care organizations and agencies. The next meeting of executives from Coalition member organizations will be in the Fall of 2006. Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing an on-going budget, staffing plan, and work groups. There is now a web page for the Coalition that can be accessed through the Public Health website (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm>). (Coalition staff contacts – Richard Marks 206-322-0971 and Lydia Ortega 206-296-5079)

WORKGROUP/ COMMITTEE INFORMATION & UPDATES

Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

(Staff contacts – Dr. Gary Goldbaum, PHSKC at 206-296-4991 & Aimee Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145)

The ACPWG is developing surge capacity plans for ambulatory care and triage services. The group is developing strategies that will expand outpatient care and telephone triage and reduce demand on hospital emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

- The workgroup has completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza.

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/ambulatory/index.htm>

- The workgroup reconvened in October to focus on implementation and operational planning. The group will next focus on developing an organizational structure for ambulatory system decisions for all hazards while strengthening site preparedness and developing mechanisms for coordinated decision making and response activities.

Critical Care Work Group

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin at 206-296-4814, Mark Tonelli, MD at tonelli@u.washington.edu)

This work group is comprised of Critical Care Directors from Coalition hospitals. Public Health will be contracting with Dr. Mark Tonelli, from the University of Washington to develop altered standards of care and clinical and staffing guidelines for mass critical care.

- Dr. Mark Tonelli, Dr. Lewis Robinson and Dr. Jeff Duchin continue to work to facilitate the activities of the workgroup.
- The workgroup will be engaged in 3 primary activities in the upcoming months:
 - In evaluation of automatic resuscitators for definitive mechanical ventilation during emergencies.
 - Operational Guidance for standardized augmentation of critical care services when traditional critical care sites capabilities are far exceeded.
 - Standardized allocation of critical care interventions for emergency mass critical care including recommendations for triage algorithms as well as implementation guidance.

Legal Work Group

(Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PHSKC at 206-206-8969)

This group is comprised of attorneys representing healthcare organizations and government entities in King County.

- The workgroup has reviewed a recommended model procedure for delivery of Health Officer Isolation Orders to hospitalized persons.
- The group is also conducting an analysis of legal issues that could arise during a large scale emergency response. This work is being coordinated with a cross-jurisdictional legal workgroup that includes representation from state agencies and other counties.
- A review of the draft "Bench Book" was also completed by the workgroup. The bench book is for use by Superior Court Judges during a public health emergency. It is being developed by the King County Superior Court and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Medical Directors Committee

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814)

The Medical Directors will provide expertise and leadership for issues related to clinical care during any health emergency where large-scale emergency response and/or changes in routine healthcare delivery are necessary. The Medical Directors will review and develop clinical policies, protocols, practice standards, and plans that are relevant to emergency response.

- "Pandemic Flu and You," a 7-module PowerPoint presentation of basic educational information for healthcare workers is available for review at the link below. If you have comments on the training or would like a copy of the PowerPoint to begin adaptation for use by your facility, please contact Dr. Kay Koelemay at Kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov.

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/training/pandemic-flu.htm>

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Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

(Staff contact – Cynthia Dold, PHSKC at 206-205-0456)
This committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of hospital and healthcare emergency preparedness issues which includes surge capacity, evacuation planning, resource management, and training & exercises.

The HRSA 2005 grant cycle ended August 31st. The 2006 grant cycle began September 1st. In 2006, the hospitals have elected to continue of the support of training, exercises, and plan development with assistance from Danica Mann. They are supporting the development of the Regional Medical Resource Center through Allison Schletzbaum. In addition, they will be putting funds toward pharmaceutical caching, communications redundancy, evacuation workshops, and identifying resources to support the surge capacity plans.

Hospital Training:

- HRSA and Homeland Security are providing match funding to bring out a Train the Trainer Course for Emergency Department Personnel and EMS Providers. The Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support Trainer the Trainer Courses, available through the Medical College of Georgia, will create a cadre of instructors who will be available to educate hospital and pre-hospital personnel on disaster medical management of CBRNE related injuries. The course will be available in January 2007.

Exercises:

- The hospitals will be participating in Evacuation workshops in early spring. We will be inviting zone Emergency Managers to participate in the workshops to create awareness around hospital evacuation needs.
- Region 6 Hospitals will be participating in the National Disaster Medical System exercise in May. It will follow the Evacuation Workshops and we hope to incorporate some evacuation testing into the drill.

Planning:

- The Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Plan is revision. A revision work plan has been created and will be coordinated through the Regional Hospital Preparedness Manager. Individuals from different organizations have been assigned as primary reviewers for each section. As the plan is updated it will go out for review to the Strategy Group followed by the Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee and lastly to the Regional Partners as necessary. Updates to the plan will be completed by the end of the grant cycle in August of 2007.

Alternate Facilities Project

(Project Manager– Tony Cebollero, PHSKC at 206-205-8621)
He will work with partners to establish emergency facilities that can provide triage, ambulatory care, observation, and palliative care. These facilities will be designed to supplement the regular health care system in the event of emergencies that generate demand that exceeds existing surge capacity, i.e. “super surge.”

- Tony has begun to review potential sites for alternate care facilities and medication/vaccine dispensing centers. Follow up meetings are currently scheduled with two South King County communities for the identification of other Medication Centers. An Auburn site has been identified and is currently in the process of being established.
- A tour of the Connelly Center at Seattle University was conducted. It may serve as a possible site for an Alternate Care Facility; however a follow up meeting is currently being scheduled.
- Dr. Lewis Robinson has initiated the planning process for alternate facilities that will provide triage, urgent care and palliative care.

Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

(Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213)
The RMRC is the linchpin for coordinated operational preparedness and response. The Center will monitor and distribute human and medical resources among participating Healthcare Coalition organizations and facilities based on the objectives of the emergency response.

- Allison is working to complete multiple projects that will help form the foundation of the King County RMRC. She has written a draft operation plan, which is currently under review and revision.
- The planning team is discussing possible response structures for the RMRC and its relationship to other EOC's and Hospital Control. Potential physical locations for the RMRC are also being explored.
- Allison is working with community partners to identify communications priorities necessary to support the mission of the RMRC, and is continuing to investigate software for the RMRC to provide resource management, incident management, and communications support functions during a response.

Infectious Disease Workgroup

(Lead- Jeff Duchin, MD, PHSKC at (206) 296-4814)

This workgroup is made up of Infectious Disease Specialists and representatives from the local Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

- The Infectious Disease Workgroup held its first meeting on September 7, 2006. Representatives from seven Coalition hospitals attended the meeting. Dr. Duchin led the discussion and focused on pandemic flu planning and infection control issues. The group will continue to meet to discuss infection control, antiviral drug use, and other relevant topics.
- Workgroup members were encouraged to become more actively involved in pandemic Flu and other emergency preparedness planning in their respective organizations.

King County Call Center Project

(Project Manager, Joe Cropley, Washington Poison Control, 206-517-2383)

This project will document the existing call center capacity of participating health-related and medical organizations and will develop strategies to increase capacity. The Project will address medical phone advice and triage, as well as other public information needs. The project will involve the participation of 911 and 211 systems, Group Health and Evergreen Hospital, the Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Management, Sound Telecom, and Public Health.

- Joe has currently built several contacts with organizations and companies that offer call center services. He recently met with management of Harborview's Community Care Line and Patient Access Center and established a contact with the Northwest Call Center Professionals Organization.
- Joe conducted an interview with Dr. Greg Bogdan from Denver Public Health regarding Colorado's phone call surge model.

OTHER UPDATES

- Free personal and family pandemic flu preparedness brochures: *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide* is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm (click on General Store Website link to order brochures).
- The VHA Health Foundation presents: *Preparing for the Next Disaster: A Hospital Leadership Forum*. The forum will take place November 29-30, 2006 in New Orleans, Louisiana. It will feature Anderson Cooper (CNN Anchor), James Lee Witt (Former FEMA Director) and Admiral John A. Agwunobi (Assistant Secretary for Health). For More information go to : http://www.vhahf.org/vhahf/061129_hospitalleadershipforum.asp
- Sponsored by Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC), the Pandemic Flu exercises will test different components of response to a Pandemic Influenza event. For more information about the exercises please contact Whitney Taylor, the Training and Exercise Program Manager with PHSKC at Whitney.Taylor@METROK.COV or call (206) 296-0203.

Pandemic Flu Exercises Schedule:

October 27, 2006 - Leadership/Decision Making

November 3, 2006 - Health System Surge Capacity and Resource Management

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Healthcare Coalition Coordinating Team Meeting
November 1st, 2006 1:30-3:00pm @ Wells Fargo Center
- Hospital Strategy Work Group
November 9th, 2006 8:00-10:30 am @ Northwest Hospital
- King County Emergency Healthcare Coalition
November 14th from 8:00 – 9:50 am @ Harborview Medical Center Board Room
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting
November 16th, 2006 7:30-10:00 am @ KCECC
- Healthcare Coalition Legal Workgroup
November 17th, 2006 1:00-4:00 pm @ Group Health, Conference Room ACC7

For more information about the Healthcare Coalition or this update, contact:

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